



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09.17.03

Inventor application of

: Confirmation No.

Masatoshi TAKADA

: Docket No. 2001_1305A

Serial No. 09/960,376

: Group Art Unit 2681

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SEP 10 2003

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant requests consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,

- c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☒ A partial European Search Report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Masatoshi TAKADA

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